

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /051 W
----- 074979

O R 170755Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4320

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

USSAG NAKHON PHANOM IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 8990

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: CHATCHAI ON THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT AND ON THE MAY 16 KISSINGER
PRESS CONFERENCE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT DON MUANG AIRPORT UPON HIS MAY 16 RETURN FROM THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR. HE HELD ANOTHER PRESS CONFERENCE, IN ENGLISH ONLY, AT HOME MAY 17. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS DURING THE FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AND AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSCRIPTION OF HIS REMARKS DURING THE SECOND.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF MAY 16 PRESS CONFERENCE.

CHATCHAI: IN REGARD TO THE LANDING OF AMERICAN MARINES IN THAILAND, ASEAN MEMBER NATIONS FEEL SYMPATHY FOR THAILAND AND CONSIDER THAT THAILAND ACTED CORRECTLY AND APPROPRIATELY IN MAKING A PROTEST.

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REPORTER: DO THEY APPROVE?

CHATCHAI: YES. THEY APPROVE OF THE PROTEST MADE TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT ON SENDING TROOPS HERE, THEN LANDING THEM IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, A THIRD COUNTRY, THUS PUTTING THAILAND IN A DIFFICULT POSITION IN REGARD TO ITS POLICY TO PROMOTE AND ESTABLISH RELATIONS OF AMITY WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.

REPORTER: I ASK YOU IN YOUR CAPACITY AS FOREIGN MINISTER WHETHER THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGE IN POLICY IN REGARD TO RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS SUBMITTED THREE OPTIONS.

1. RECALLING OUR AMBASSADOR. YOU KNOW OF THIS ALREADY, DON'T YOU? WHAT WOULD BE THE RESULT OF THAT?

CHATCHAI: IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FOREIGN POLICY WITH ANY COUNTRY, OR BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE MUST EXERCISE THE GREATEST CARE POSSIBLE. WE HAVE ALREADY STATED IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY THAT IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES, ANY ACTION WE TAKE MUST BE IN A FRIENDLY MANNER. THEREFORE, BEFORE RECALLING OUR AMBASSADOR MY VIEW IS THAT HE OUGHT TO GO AND MEET THE U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE, IN ORDER TO HEAR FROM HIM WHAT REASON THE UNITED STATES HAD FOR TAKING THE ACTION IT TOOK. WE MUST LISTEN TO EXPLANATIONS OF THE OBJECTIVE FROM HIM FIRST. BUT I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY APPROVE OF THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER IN MAKING A PROTEST IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER.

REPORTER: SINCE THE ACTION OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO THE EXTENT OF VIOLATING THAI SOVEREIGNTY, DO WE STILL PLAN TO HOLD NEGOTIATIONS AS FRIENDS WITH IT, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS UNFRIENDLY TOWARD US?

CHATCHAI: IF TALKS ARE NOT FRIENDLY, WHAT CAN BE DONE, SINCE IT HAS AS MANY AS 4-5 BASES IN THAILAND.

REPORTER: IT MIGHT CONSIDER THAT WE ARE IN A POSITION IN WHICH WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE.

CHATCHAI: THAT IS NOT OUR POSITION AT ALL. IN OTHER WORDS, NO ACTION CAN BE TAKEN IN A HURRY. WITHDRAWALS CANNOT BE CARRIED

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OUT IMMEDIATELY, WITHIN ONLY ONE DAY. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE. NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE HELD CALMLY AND BY GRADUAL STEPS. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE WILL UPHOLD NATIONAL DIGNITY ABOVE ALL ELSE IN NEGOTIATIONS HELD.

REPORTER: WILL WE RECALL OUR AMBASSADOR?

CHATCHAI: WAIT A LITTLE LONGER AND YOU SHOULD KNOW, AFTER THE

CABINET MEETING WHICH WILL START AT 3.30 P.M. END TEXT

3. BEGIN TEXT OF MAY 17 PRESS CONFERENCE.

Q. I UNDERSTAND DR. KISSINGER HAS APOLOGIZED FORHIS
PART IN THE....

A. IT'S NOT AN APOLOGY. HE JUST REGRETTED. HE SAID "I REGRET
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE GULF OF THAILAND."

Q. DO YOU ACCEPT HIS REGRETS. DOES THAT CLOSE THE MATTER OR IS
THE THAI GOVERNMENT STILL UPSET?

A. NO, I DIDN'T HEAR WHAT HE SAID. JUST AP. JUST CAME FROM
AP, THAT'S CALL.

Q. DO YOU ACCEPT THAT THAT IS ENOUGH, OR DO YOU WANT A SINCERE

A. NO. BECAUSE THEY SHOULD REPLY TO OUR NOTE.

Q. HOW DO YOU SEE THAI-U.S. RELATIONS NOW? WHERE DO THEY STAND
NOW?

A. WELL, ON OUR SIDE. YOU MEAN ON OUR SIDE? ON OUR SIDE, I
BELIEVE THE INCIDENT TWO THREE DAYS AGO IS VERY SAD, INDEED.
WHEN WE HAVE WAR YOU DO NOT FIGHT. WHEN THE WAR IS OVER, YOU
(LAUGHS) WANT TO FIGHT. SO YOU (LAUGHS) FIGHT ALONE IN THIS AREA.
WE DON'T UNDERSTAND. UNBELIEVEABLE. WHEN I RECEIVED THE INFOR-
MATION FROM BANGKOK WHEN I WAS IN K.L.....UNBELIEVEABLE. I
THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING WRONG. IT WAS A JOKE OR SOMETHING
LIKE THAT. UNBELIEVEABLE. END TEXT.
WHITEHOUSE

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